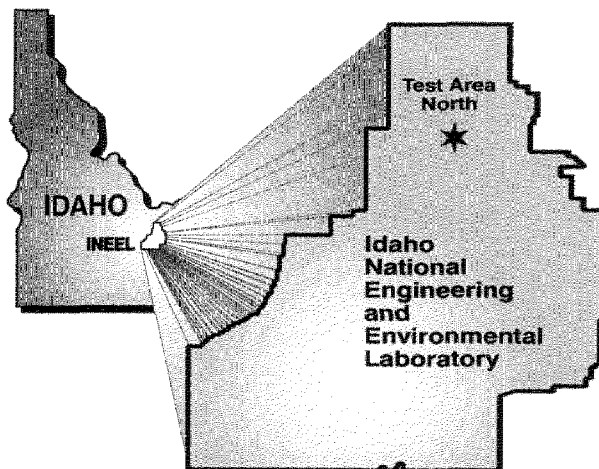


NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

**Agencies announce changes to cleanup work
at Test Area North**

The U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have released an explanation of significant differences document outlining changes to some of the remedies selected in the 1999 Record of Decision for cleanup sites at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

The changes will continue to be protective of human health and the environment. They include changes at five cleanup sites at Test Area North that include a small underground tank site, two burn pit sites, a diesel fuel leak area and mercury spill area.

At the underground tank

site, additional characterization work will be performed to determine how much contaminated soil is in the area, and a minor change to the regulatory cleanup requirements will be made. At one of the burn pit sites, the remedy is being changed from native soil cover to waste removal and disposal. At another burn pit site that includes four individual pits, it was found that another of the pits would not require a native soil cover. Two of the other pits at this site now require native soil covers. Further data at the diesel fuel leak site indicates that no further action is necessary to remain protective of human health and the environment. The mercury spill area is being transferred to another of the INEEL's Superfund

cleanup projects.

Test Area North was established in 1951 as part of the Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion Program that was later cancelled. The unique facilities built there were later used for the investigation of core material from the damaged Three Mile Island-II reactor and as an armor manufacturing facility for military vehicles. The armor manufacturing facility is still in use today.

Detailed information is available in the Administrative Record file for Operable Unit 1-10. The Administrative Record is located at the DOE Reading Room of the INEEL Technical Library in Idaho Falls. Copies can be found at Albertsons Library on the Boise State University. The Administrative Record can be accessed on the Internet at <http://ar.inel.gov/home.html>. More information on Test Area North and the V-Tanks can be found in a fact sheet available online at: <http://www.inel.gov/publicdocuments/factsheet/02-50568-02.pdf>.

For more information, contact the Community Relations Office at (208)526-3183 or by email at campjl@inel.gov.

